

- (1) use its plenary powers to suppress for the purposes of the Law of Priority but not for those of the Law of Homonymy :—
 - (a) the trivial name *pungens* Walckenaer, 1802, *Faune Parisienne*, **2** : 354 (as published in the combination *Pulex pungens*) ;
 - (b) the trivial name *vespertilionis* Dugès, 1832, *Ann. Sci. nat.*, Paris (1) **27** : 161, 164, pl. 4 fig. 4 (as published in the combination *Pulex vespertilionis*) ;
- (2) place on the *Official List of Specific Trivial Names in Zoology* the trivial name *eusarca* Dampf, 1908, as published in the combination *Nyctridopsylla eusarca* (1908, *Schr. phys.-ökon. Ges. Königsberg* **40** : 45, fig. 3) ;
- (3) place on the *Official List of Rejected and Invalid Specific Trivial Names in Zoology* :—
 - (a) the trivial name *pungens* Walckenaer, 1802 (as published in the combination *Pulex pungens*) as proposed under (1) (a) above, to be suppressed under the plenary powers ;
 - (b) the trivial name *vespertilionis* Dugès, 1832 (as published in the combination *Pulex vespertilionis*), as proposed under (1) (b) above, to be suppressed under plenary powers.

**PROPOSED DETERMINATION UNDER THE PLENARY
POWERS OF THE SPECIES TO WHICH THE TRIVIAL
NAME "SIMUS" LINNAEUS, 1767 (AS PUBLISHED IN
THE BINOMINAL COMBINATION "COLUBER SIMUS")
(CLASS REPTILIA) IS TO BE APPLIED**

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(Commission's reference Z.N.(S.)662)

In the course of a systematic study of the genus *Heterodon* Latreille, 1801 (*Hist. nat.*, Rept. **4** : 32), it has become apparent that the trivial name (*platyrhinos*, Latreille, *loc. cit.*) of the most common and most widely distributed member of the genus is antedated by the trivial name *simus* Linnaeus, 1767 (*Systema Naturae* (ed. 12) **1** : 375) which has been misapplied. Linnaeus

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described a snake with a black belly and 124 ventral plates, taken by C. D. Garden in Carolina. The ventral characteristic is more typical of the common hog-nosed snake (currently known as *Heterodon platyrhinos*, Klauber, 1948, *Copeia* **1948** : 8) than it is of the coastal plain species (currently known as *Heterodon simus*); the notation of a black belly completely excludes the coastal plain form from consideration, although such a character is frequent on the common hog-nosed snake. The typically black-bellied species (*Heterodon nasicus* Baird and Girard, 1852, Reptiles in Stansbury's *Exploration and Survey of the Valley of the Great Salt Lake of Utah* : 352-353) is excluded on the basis of locality. In view of these data it seems indisputable that Linnaeus had a common hog-nosed snake in hand when he described *Coluber simus*.

2. The trivial name *simus* has been used in its present connotation for more than 100 years, and almost all references to the species have used this name. The name *platyrhinos* was used from the time of its description until 1917 in its present connotation, and was resurrected by Klauber in 1948. All of the older literature used this name in discussing the common hog-nosed snake as has literature since 1948. The application of the trivial name *simus* to the common hog-nosed snake and the resurrection of the oldest synonym for the coastal plain species would result in confusion certainly not warranted by the desire for a strict adherence to the Rules. The present case is exactly comparable to recently proposed changes in the names of garter snakes (Klauber, *op. cit.*); these changes have been opposed recently by Schmidt and Conant (1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* **2** (3) : 67-68) who request the Commission to stabilise the names involved in their pre-Klauber connotations; in this they have been supported by some 25 other North American herpetologists and more recently by Klauber also (*ibid.* **2** : 351).

3. In order to place the names of the foregoing species beyond the range of further dispute, I accordingly ask the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature :—

- (1) to use its plenary powers to direct that the trivial name *simus* Linnaeus, 1767 (as published in the binominal combination *Coluber simus*) shall apply to the species described *Heterodon simus* on page 57, and figured on plate 15, of volume 4 of Holbrook (J.E.), 1842, *North American Herpetology ; or a description of the reptiles inhabiting the United States*, Philadelphia, Dobson, and that "Carolina" (restricted to the vicinity of Charlestown) is to be treated as the type locality of the species, the nomenclature of which is to be so stabilised ;
- (2) to place the under-mentioned trivial names on the *Official List of Specific Trivial Names in Zoology* :—
 - (a) *simus* Linnaeus, 1758 (as published in the binominal combination *Coluber simus*), as proposed, under (1) above, to be defined under the plenary powers ;
 - (b) *platyrhinos* Latreille, 1801 (as published in the binominal combination *Heterodon platyrhinos*).